

## CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, and 21 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing modification of configuration states of a plurality of resources of multiple types in a dynamic data center, said method comprising:

creating a modification policy for said resources;

obtaining a new modification for configuration states of resources of a particular type; ~~[[and]]~~

automatically performing said new modification to said configuration states of said resources of said particular type based on said modification policy by utilizing a resource pool without degrading a level of service provided by said resources of said particular type by performing said new modification to a configuration state of an available resource and by re-directing new requests for a service provided by a first resource to said available resource, wherein said resource pool includes a plurality of available resources of multiple types; and

causing said first resource to discontinue providing said service after said available resource completes existing service requests originally intended for said first resource.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said automatically performing said new modification includes:

selecting said available resource of said particular type from said resource pool to replace said first resource of said particular type, wherein said performing of said new modification to said configuration state of said available resource of said particular type is enabled;

configuring said available resource to provide said service provided by said first resource of said particular type, wherein said re-directing of said new requests for said service provided by said first resource to said available resource is enabled;

~~causing said first resource to discontinue providing said service after completing existing service requests; and~~

performing said new modification to ~~[[said]]~~ a configuration state of said first resource, wherein said first resource represents another available resource from said resource pool.

3. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said dynamic data center is a utility data center.

4. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said configuration state includes a firmware configuration state.

5. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said configuration state includes an operating system configuration state.

6. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said configuration state includes an application configuration state.

7. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said new modification is one of an update, a patch, a fix, and an upgrade.

8. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said plurality of resources includes a resource that is one of a server, a load balancer, a firewall, and a VPN (virtual private network) appliance.

9. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said obtaining said new modification includes:

testing said new modification.

10. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said obtaining said new modification includes:

determining whether said new modification is certified for use in said dynamic data center.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions stored therein for performing a method of managing modification of configuration states of a plurality of resources of multiple types in a dynamic data center, said method comprising:

creating a modification policy for said resources;

obtaining a new modification for configuration states of resources of a particular type; [[and]]

automatically performing said new modification to said configuration states of said resources of said particular type based on said modification policy by utilizing a resource pool without degrading a level of service provided by said resources of said particular type by performing said new modification to a configuration state of an available resource and by re-directing new requests for a service provided by a first resource to said available resource, wherein said resource pool includes a plurality of available resources of multiple types; and

causing said first resource to discontinue providing said service after said available resource completes existing service requests originally intended for said first resource.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 11 wherein said automatically performing said new modification includes:

selecting said available resource of said particular type from said resource pool to replace said first resource of said particular type, wherein said performing of said new modification to said configuration state of said available resource of said particular type is enabled;

configuring said available resource to provide said service provided by said first resource of said particular type, wherein said re-directing of said new requests for said service provided by said first resource to said available resource is enabled;

~~causing said first resource to discontinue providing said service after completing existing service requests; and~~

performing said new modification to ~~[[said]]~~ a configuration state of said first resource, wherein said first resource represents another available resource from said resource pool.

13. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 11 wherein said dynamic data center is a utility data center.

14. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 11 wherein said configuration state includes a firmware configuration state.

15. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 11 wherein said configuration state includes an operating system configuration state.

16. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 11 wherein said configuration state includes an application configuration state.

17. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 11 wherein said new modification is one of an update, a patch, a fix, and an upgrade.

18. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 11 wherein said plurality of resources includes a resource that is one of a server, a load balancer, a firewall, and a VPN (virtual private network) appliance.

19. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 11 wherein said obtaining said new modification includes:  
testing said new modification.

20. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 11 wherein said obtaining said new modification includes:  
determining whether said new modification is certified for use in said dynamic data center.

21. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:  
a dynamic data center including:  
a service pool including a plurality of resources of multiple types, each resource providing a particular service;  
a resource pool including a plurality of available resources of multiple types; and  
a controller for controlling said resources and said available resources;  
and  
a configuration state manager for:  
automatically performing a new modification to configuration states of said resources of a particular type based on a modification policy by utilizing said resource pool without degrading a level of service provided by said resources of said particular type by performing said new modification to a configuration state of an available resource and by re-directing new requests for a service provided by a first resource to said available resource; and

causing said first resource to discontinue providing said service after said available resource completes existing service requests originally intended for said first resource.

22. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 21 further comprising a graphical user interface to enable creation of said modification policy.

23. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said dynamic data center is a utility data center.

24. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said configuration state includes a firmware configuration state.

25. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said configuration state includes an operating system configuration state.

26. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said configuration state includes an application configuration state.

27. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said new modification is one of an update, a patch, a fix, and an upgrade.

28. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 21 wherein said plurality of resources includes a resource that is one of a server, a load balancer, a firewall, and a VPN (virtual private network) appliance.